

Amendment to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 10-15, without prejudice, as required in response to the Final Rejection.

1. (Original) An apparatus for centrifuging blood or plasma to separate a component therefrom without degradation of protein contained in the blood or protein, comprising:
 - a container for holding the blood or plasma during the centrifuging;
 - a means for rotating the container;
 - a heat-emitting device provided opposite the container for radiating the blood or plasma in the container to increase the temperature of the blood or plasma; and
 - a filter disposed between the heat-emitting device and the container for filtering the radiation emitted from the heat-emitting device to remove substantially all radiation therefrom having a wavelength in the range of from 190 to 400 nm.
2. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the container comprises a cylindrical member, a piston displaceable therein, a top wall and a tubular piston rod extending through the top wall, the piston rod dividing the cylindrical member into a first chamber located above the piston between the piston and the top wall, and a second chamber positioned below the piston.
3. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a piston activating mechanism connected to the piston for moving the piston from a first position in the cylindrical member to a second position in the cylindrical member.
4. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the means for rotating the container comprises a supporting turntable with means for releasably retaining the container, and a motor coupled to the supporting turntable, the motor rotating the supporting turntable and the container about a central axis thereof.
5. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-emitting device comprises a first heating source for emitting visible light substantially directed towards the container.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the first heating source is a halogen bulb.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising a second heating source for emitting infrared radiation substantially directed towards the container.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the second heating source comprises a metal heating plate.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a first temperature sensor for detecting the temperature of air in an area around the container, a second temperature sensor for detecting the temperature of a surface of the container, and a control unit for controlling the heat-emitting device in response to the temperatures detected in the first and second temperature sensors.

Claims 10-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A method for centrifuging blood or plasma to separate a component of the blood or plasma without degradation of protein contained in the blood or plasma, comprising the steps of:

heating the blood or plasma to about 36 to 37°C with radiation from a heat-emitting device;
filtering the radiation emitted from the heat-emitting device to remove substantially all radiation therefrom having a wavelength in the range of from 190 to 400 nm; and
centrifuging the blood or plasma.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the sample of blood or plasma is heated to about 36°C.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 17, wherein radiation having a wavelength in the range of from about 190 to 400 nm is filtered from the radiation emitted by the heat-emitting device.